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Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 FEA-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /088 W
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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9479
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS IMMEDIATE 1016

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 EC BRUSSELS 7503

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR ENRG EEC IEA
SUBJECT: EC NINE CONSIDER FRENCH COMPROMISE PROPOSALS

REF: STATE 196703

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. AT BELGIAN REQUEST, THE EC COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) MET IN BRUSSELS AUGUST 22 TO CONSIDER A COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO THE FRENCH COMPROMISE PROPOSALS. OUR SOURCES INDICATE THAT IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE MEETING THAT THE FRENCH PAPER WAS A "GOOD STARTING POINT," ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS WERE WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS AND THE DISCUSSIONS WERE NOT DEFINITIVE. AN ADDITIONAL COREPER MEETING TO FURTHER CONSIDER THE FRENCH PROPOSALS IS LIKELY TO BE HELD NEXT WEEK FOLLOWING THE IEA MEETING ON AUGUST 25. END SUMMARY.

2. COREPER MET IN BRUSSELS ON AUGUST 22 AT THE REQUEST OF THE BELGIAN DELEGATION. OUR SOURCES INDICATE A WORTHWHILE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS TOOK PLACE DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UK, LUXEMBOURG
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AND IRELAND WERE WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS AND THAT THE

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OTHERS (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE BELGIANS) HAD INSTRUCTIONS COVERING ONLY CERTAIN POINTS. INITIAL REACTIONS WERE GENERALLY FAVORABLE, AND THE FRENCH PAPER WAS TERMED A "GOOD STARTING POINT."

3. THE FOURTH COMMISSION: IN VARYING DEGREES, THE MEMBER STATES EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THEY WOULD FEEL HAPPIER WITHOUT A FOURTH COMMISSION BUT HTAT IF SUCH A COMMISSION HAD TO EXIST, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE BE CLEARLY DELINIATED. THE BELGIANS, DUTCH AND THE EC COMMISSION, TO THIS END, SUGGESTED THAT THE FRENCH STRIKE THE WORK "ALL" FROM THE LAST PHRASE OF THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THEIR AIDE MEMOIRE (PARA 2 REFTEL) AND FROM THE PARAGRAPH DELINIATING THE COMMISSION'S RESPONSIBILITIES (PARA 17 REFTEL). IT WAS HOPED THAT THESE DELETIONS WOULD SERVE TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE FINANCIAL COMMISSION WOULD ONLY EXIST TO DEAL WITH THOSE FINANCIAL ISSUES ARISING FROM THE WORK OF THE THREE OTHER COMMISSIONS, AND WOULD NOT BE A FORUM FOR MORE GENERALIZED DISCUSSION.

4. COMMISSION ON RAW MATERIALS: THE EC COMMISSION SUGGESTED DROPPING THE PHRASE "WHICH ARE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" FROM THE END OF THE PARAGRAPH DESCRIBING THE COMMISSION ON RAW MATERIALS (PARA 15 REFTEL), ARGUING THAT THIS PHRASE, WHICH IT NOTED MODIFIED "ARRANGEMENTS" RATHER THAN "FOOD COMMODITIES", WAS UNNECESSARILY LIMITING. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT THIS WOULD PROVIDE MORE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT. THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE NOTED THE COMMISSION'S ARGUMENTS AND SAID HE WOULD PASS THEM ON TO PARIS. (IN HIS INITIAL STATEMENT, THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE URGED HIS COLLEAGUES TO CONCENTRATE ON SUBSTANCE RATHER THAN SPECIFIC PHRASEOLOGY AND EMPHASIZED THAT THE ACTUAL DRAFTING OF THE CONSENSUS PROPOSALS HAD BEEN AND WOULD REMAIN A FRENCH RESPONSIBILITY.)

5. COMMISSION ON DEVELOPMENT: THE EC COMMISSION, CONFIDENTIAL

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SUPPORTED BY THE DANES, DUTCH AND GERMANS, ASKED THAT AT THE END OF THE EXISTING PARAGRAPH ON DEVELOP-MENT (PARA 16 REFTEL) SOME MENTION BE MADE OF THE PARTICULAR NEED TO ASSIST THE MSA'S, NOTING THAT SUCH A PHRASE HAD APPEARED IN THE TEXT PREPARED BY THE GROUP OF SEVEN. THE BELGIAN REPRESENTATIVE, HOWEVER, SAID HE THOUGHT THE INCLUSION OF THIS POINT "MIGHT CAUSE PROBLEMS."

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6. RELATIONSHIP OF THE FOURTH COMMISSION TO EXISTING IFI'S: SEVERAL DELEGATIONS SAID THAT THEY WERE NOT ENTIRELY HAPPY WITH THE REFERENCES IN THE PRESENT TEXT TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FINANCIAL COMMISSION AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (PARA 17 REFTEL). THE BELGIANS SUPPORTED BY THE DUTCH, LUXEMBOURGERS AND DANES, SAID THAT THE REFERENCE NEEDED TO BE STRENGTHENED SO THAT IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE FINANCIAL COMMISSION WOULD NOT IMPINGE UPON THE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE AGREED THAT THIS WAS IMPORTANT AND POINTED OUT THAT TO THIS END THEY HAD PURPOSEFULLY AVOIDED USE OF THE WORD "MONETARY" IN THE AIDE MEMOIRE.

7. PARTICIPATION OF THE IEA: WHILE SEVERAL DELEGATIONS STRESSED THE NEED TO BEAR IN MIND THE IMPORTANCE OF "PROPER" TREATMENT FOR THE IEA, ONE SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT THE MEETING PRODUCED "LESS OF A ROW THAN EXPECTED" ON THIS ISSUE. ON THE NAMEPLATE QUESTION, IT WAS THE CONSENSUS THAT THE IEA SHOULD EITHER BE SEPARATELY AND SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED OR GROUPED WITH THE OTHER OBSERVERS. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF INSURING THAT THE IEA WAS REPRESENTED, WITH THE RIGHT OF SPEAK,. IN THE ENERGY COMMISSION.

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9480
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS IMMEDIATE 1017

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 EC BRUSSELS 7503

8. IEA REPRESENTATION AT PLENARY MEETINGS:
THE DANISH REPRESENTATIVE, SUPPORTED IN PART BY THE
BELGIANS AND DUTCH, SAID HIS GOVERNFMENT RELUCTANTLY
ACCEPTED THE DECISION THAT UN SECRETARY GENERAL
WALDHEIM WOULD BE THE SOLE OBSERVER AT THE FIRST
PLENARY CONFERENCE BUT HOPED THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE
PRECEDENT BARRING POSSIBLE OBSERVER STATUS
FOR THE IEA AT THE FOLLOW UP CONFERENCE.

9. MID-TERM OFFICIAL MEETING: SEVERAL DELEGATIONS
EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF A MID-TERM
PLENARY SESSION AT THE OFFICIAL LEVEL. THE DANES,
SUPPORTED BY THE BELGIANS, SAID THIS PROPOSAL RAN THE
RISK OF TURNING THE CONFERENCE INTO A PERMANENT
INSTITUTION. THE FRENCH RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT THE
CURRENT FORMULATION WAS AN EFFORT TO BRIDGE THE GAP
BETWEEN THE VIEWS OF THE US AND THE SEVEN AND THAT
THE MATTER WOULD BE DISCUSSED FURTHER.

10. JOINT MEETINGS OF COMMISSION CO-CHAIRMEN: THE
GERMANS EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT ANY JOINT MEETINGS
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OF COMMISSION CO-CHAIRMEN SHOULD BE OF A TECHNICAL
NATURE ONLY AND THAT THESE MEETINGS CONSTITUTE A
"POLITICAL STEERING GROUP."

11. LIAISON WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA:
(PARA 18 REFTEL). THE GERMANS SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT
TO INSURE THAT ANY LIAISON BETWEEN THE COMMISSIONS
ON RAW MATERIALS ON DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
BODIES DEALING WITH THESE SUBJECTS BE OF A TECHNICAL
NATURE ONLY.

12. FURTHER COMMUNITY COORDINATION: THE COMMISSION
IS TO PREPARE A SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION AT THIS
MEETING, AND OUR SOURCES INDICATE THAT A FURTHER
MEETING TO COORDINATE THE COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO THE
FRENCH PAPER IS LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE ON AUGUST 27 OR
28 IN BRUSSELS, BY WHICH TIME IS IS HOPED ALL MEMBER
STATES DELEGATIONS WILL BE IN RECEIPT OF FULL
INSTRUCTIONS.MORRIS

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